Tordis Christoffersen in France

THE EUROPEAN HARVEST FIELD

Father, the day is Thine,
Framed with minutest care;
In need foreseen let love serene
Prevent me everywhere.
Guide lest through erring sight,
Through dull or clouded sense,
One touch I miss of Heaven's own bliss
In Thy deep confidence.

—*Selected.*

This favorite quotation is presented in the hope that others may also find it helpful in their personal devotions, and that someone may be able to identify the author.

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VOL. XXXV JULY-AUGUST
No. 4 1954

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CATHERINE RUTH SMITH, Editor

A Boastful Coward

"Look! look!" said a missionary who was helping me in Germany. "Do you observe those horrid sketches of Jews posted on the walls?" "Hush! hush!" I replied. "Speak softly; remember we are in Berlin, and Hitler is in power." Hitler's man who was responsible for these cartoons was Herr Streicher, a boastful, cruel Jew-hater. His business was to poison the minds of the people against the Jews.

The bitter persecution caused many Jews to attend Gospel meetings, and accept the Word of God. When I told them that many in England and America were praying for Israel, tears came to the eyes of some. I told them how, as a youth, I had acted the Jew on the stage. They asked, "How was your heart changed?" I replied, "The Cross of Jesus Christ became a power that opened my blind eyes." "Why do some Church members persecute or hate the Jews?" they asked. "Because they have not known Galatians 2.20. Paul declared: 'I have been crucified with Christ.' The great Apostle knew the Saviour, with a love for all mankind. He joyfully said, 'Nevertheless I live.' When we love, we begin to live. 'Christ liveth in me.' That is true Christian joy. Satan hates that."

Our adversary is the pioneer of all Jew-haters. Ephesians 4.27 warns us: "Neither give place to the devil." My friends who have been in Israel are full of praise for Dr. Yuk's great Clinic. The doctor longs and yearns to bring his patients to Christ. May we all be faithful in prayer.

Now think once more of Streicher, the Satan-inspired Jew-hater. Picture him on the scaffold. The Chaplain speaks to him of Christ, but he will not listen. Suddenly he yells: "Heil Hitler!" Then he shouts out his wife's name. Then the bolt is drawn from under his feet. Death is instantaneous. He has gone. The boastful coward reaps what he has sown.

Today, God is speaking to us: "This people have I formed for Myself, and they shall show forth My praise." The Divine plan and purpose for Israel must come to pass. He will stagger the whole universe. Isaiah's great prophecy is up to date. It thrills me and fills me with hope and joyous expectancy. Let everyone sing and pray, "Come, Lord Jesus, come to rule and reign." Then shall the Fellowship prosper according to His promise, and prosperity be a personal blessing.

F. SPENCER JOHNSON.

Dane Park, Margate, England.

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Tordis Christoffersen in France

TORDIS CHRISTOFFERSEN

Nice, A. M., June 15, 1954.

"All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."—Romans 8.28.

My dear praying friends:—

As the years come and go, one realizes more and more that God is working out His eternal purpose of calling out and preparing a people for Himself, in the midst of varied circumstances and sufferings. To be called according to this eternal purpose, this high and holy calling, fills one with wonder and praise. To be guided into this work, which has been prepared beforehand, is truly great and glorious.

Recently I had such a God-guided ministry given me, which I want to share with you, my faithful prayer-partners. One of our friends, a former Russian countess, was run down by a motorcyclist. She was taken to the general hospital, and placed in a ward with twenty-eight others. On my frequent visits there, God gave me a precious ministry, which is going on and on, up to this day. God gave many of these poor suffering people a chance to hear the Gospel of grace and love, which they otherwise never would have had. In a corner we found a totally blind woman, who had fallen and broken her forearms. Such a helpless, ready soul! She accepted, she understood the Word, and I felt the pulse of her warm heart in prayer. Eternity was in those moments, and there is fellowship even now, when she is up in the mountains.

There was a special case, that stirred up many to pray. A quite young girl had a growth on the lower part of the brain. As such a case was new—one had never seen the like in France—all the best surgeons hesitated to operate; but finally a well-known surgeon from another town wanted to try. We spent the day before in prayer together. She trusted the Lord, whom she knew as Saviour, and was calm when five physicians took her to the operating-room, and for nine hours she was under the anesthetic. We, a few of us, stood before the Lord in prayer the whole day. She survived, and she is so sure that it is all the Lord's doing. She has already attended meetings, and is so humbly grateful. There were many other contacts made, and we follow up in their homes.

But I must tell you of a Jewish lady, who was won in a way new to me, for on the very first day she asked for prayer. And every time she saw me, she asked first of all for prayer, before we read the Word; and this even when surrounded by relatives and friends of high standing in Jewish circles. She confessed to all that nothing meant so much to her as prayer,—and this was always in His Name, who is the Messiah and Saviour. Open doors and listening hearts were the result; if strength and time permits, there is all one could wish to do for Him.

There were many others who became near and dear to me, but I must close by telling you that the Superintendent, a Catholic sister, called me into

her office and told me that I was a true worker, only it was a pity that I was not a Catholic! How I praised Him for having guided and protected, for in France everything is controlled by the Roman Catholic Church, and it is not uncommon to be forbidden to speak to patients.

Remember us all for good. With greeting in His Name, I remain
Your fellow-worker in France,
TORDIS CHRISTOFFERSEN.

Sister Tordis has also sent us the following letter from a prisoner whom she had befriended. This was her accompanying comment: "Years ago I asked my precious fellow-worker, J. L., who is legally admitted to all prisons in France, to give me twenty addresses of men behind the bars, who were without help,—those who were the most abandoned of all. And the one who wrote this letter told me, at the beginning, that I was the first person who had ever shown him kindness and interest. Now he is a child of God; and there are many others who have found Him who came to loose the bonds, and to set men free. What a great privilege it has been to help these poor people, in various ways: with food, clothing, literature, and personal letters." The letter, which bears the prison censor's stamp, is given below.

Prison Infirmary Camp South, Mauzac, Dordogne,
April 26, 1954.

My very dear sister in our Lord Jesus:—

Your letter brought me great joy, and I thank you most heartily for your thoughts and prayers for me. I am striving, with each passing day, to put off the old man, and to become worthy in every respect of your prayers, of your efforts on my behalf, and of your friendship, which is so precious to me. I say to myself sometimes that this punishment is too hard for my poor faults. But this punishment, dear sister in Christ, is nothing, and so I offer it up to the Saviour, who Himself has suffered that we might be purified. There indeed, you may believe, was a sacrifice!

As for myself, I shall soon be entering upon the good way, the good path, so well traced for us by our Saviour, the way of all good, of prayer and communion. I am sick, and I must have an operation. But the thought of the pain and suffering does not terrify me at all, for I have faith in the living Word, the Word of Him who has shed His blood for us poor sinners.

In my daily prayers I implore that God will restore your dear relatives in Denmark to perfect health, and with all my heart I ask the same blessing for you, who are so good. Here in the infirmary we have an attendant who is very devoted to his work. For myself and my comrades I thank you warmly for the box you sent, and for the sacred literature.

At the same time, dear sister in Christ, I would ask you, so far as it lies in your power, to help me in securing a certificate for work and for liberation. I am drawing near the end of my term here, the end of my imprisonment, and I have decided to ask for my liberty, but upon certain conditions only. In this connection I would address myself to you, for you have always guided me, little by little, in the way, the way of God.

There is still one other thing which I would like to ask of you. This is a very delicate matter, and yet I would be so happy if it were possible to obtain a photograph of my benefactress, the one who has led me in the good way. I would also beg that you write me often. I am so happy to read your letters, the sacred words which enable me always to keep close to our Saviour. Receive, dear sister, the assurance of my respect and my regard. I am, your devoted servant in our Lord,

LUDOVIC BUFFAT.

Some months ago, while it was still cold weather, we were privileged to send a warm coat and cap to Miss Christoffersen for Jean-Pierre, the bright and consecrated boy of fourteen, whose Christian development she has watched and fostered for a number of years. We are now in receipt of the following graceful letter of appreciation, sent us directly by the boy himself:

Montreuil, May 23, 1954.

Dear Friend:—

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I come to thank you for the lovely box, which Miss Christoffersen passed on to us in good time, but which I have been so slow in acknowledging. However, I have thought of you constantly, with deep appreciation of the generous gift, which has been most useful, and which fits me perfectly. I appreciate it so much the more because it has come from friends who are so far away, but whom God has been so gracious as to give us, because He is love. "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else" (Isaiah 45.22). We love to bring together all our friends in our prayers to the Lord Jesus, and we may say with Paul: "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4.6,7).

As for myself, I can say that God has been, as it were, "spoiling" me, even to this day, in loading me with benefits both spiritual and physical, and above all in giving me such a friend as Miss Christoffersen, who has been as a true mother to Mamma and me. She is also our spiritual mother, for God has chosen her to bring us the Word, and for this we give Him thanks. "I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications. . . . The sorrows of death compassed me . . . I was brought low, and he helped me" (Psalm 116.1, 3, 6).

I must apologize for being so slow in writing to you, but I have had a great deal of work, and I have kept putting off until tomorrow everything that did not have to be done immediately. After the day's work I find myself a little disinclined to write, for I have already done so much writing in the high school. If God graciously permits me to secure the higher diploma, then I would like to go on and take my degree. And meanwhile I am listening, to find out if God may be calling me, "Jean-Pierre," so that I may answer Him, like Samuel, "Here am I; speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth."

My mother is always working very hard in the factory, and my father is sick in a sanatorium. He went back there again two and a half years ago, after having been at home with us for two years. At this very time he is having a lung operation, and I would like to ask you to remember him in your prayers.

My mother greets you in the Lord, and please accept the Christian salutations of your young friend,

JEAN-PIERRE.

Typical of the work of our missionaries, at its purest and best, is the self-sacrificing labor of Miss Christoffersen, which has called forth, from two souls so widely separated—in age, history, and present position—yet one in Christ, these sincere expressions of appreciation. Please remember them, and her, in your prayers!

John Kovalchuk in Argentina

Bowen, Mendoza, June 12, 1954.

Dear Sister in the Lord, Ekaterina Normanovna:—

Your dear letter of May 28th, with the check for the present month, has been received. We also received, in due course, your letter and check for the preceding month. Forgive me for not acknowledging it earlier, but somehow the time has imperceptibly slipped by. We heartily thank you, dear sister, for your regular help and for your dear letters, which always delight and hearten us. We always thank our Lord for you, and daily remember you in our prayers, together with all the friends and workers everywhere on the harvest field of God.

You are now enjoying the beautiful summer-time, but we have the winter with its often changeable weather. The days are short and the nights are long. Our meetings are going on regularly, three and four times a week, both in our own town, and also in the colony. From time to time we have special meetings, which are very well attended. May the Lord prosper all the seed sown, to His glory, and to the salvation of souls. We correspond with a great many people in different lands, and, so far as we are able, contribute to various Russian religious periodicals, which are widely distributed in many lands, among the widely scattered Russian population. We pray to God that He will bless and further all these efforts.

And so, our honored Mrs. Dowkontt has gone to join her husband, in eternity. That was a very interesting and touching comment made by one of her friends, who said that after the death of her husband, she really did not live any longer. Quietly and imperceptibly there comes to each one of us, in turn, the hour when, like David, we are obliged to say: "Behold, I go the way of all the earth." So long as the Lord preserves us in life, let us also say, in the words of Moses, the man of God: "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

We are very glad, dear sister, that you have been able to secure a new Russian typewriter. It writes so cleanly and beautifully. You are making wonderful progress in the Russian language. You have a natural gift for the study of languages. Thanks be to God that He has endowed you with this talent, and that you have dedicated it to His glory.

I am enclosing a note from Brother Ivanov, acknowledging the gift which you so kindly sent him. He was greatly encouraged by this help, and wished to express his hearty gratitude to God and to the kind friends who sent it.

We remain, yours in the love of Christ,

JOHN and MARY KOVALCHUK.

Brother Ivanov is a Christian man of whom Brother Kovalchuk wrote some time ago, telling how he had been left a widower with a large family. Some of our friends, on reading that earlier letter, were moved to send us gifts for him. He now writes to express his appreciation.

Bowen, Mendoza, April 16, 1954.

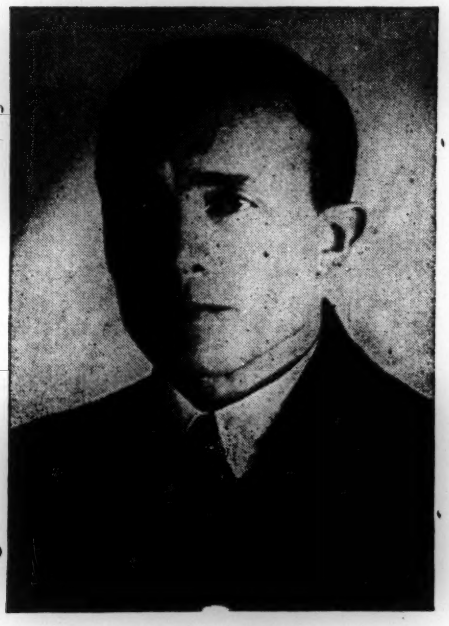
Dear friends, brothers and sisters in Christ:—

Peace be to you from the Lord! The purpose of this letter is to be found in my great desire to thank you all most heartily for your Christian love, expressed in the kindness you have done us by sending such a generous gift. On the date above indicated, our dear Brother John Kovalchuk put into my hands the gift of twenty-five dollars, sent by you. We value your offerings very highly, and especially appreciate the spirit with which you have done and are doing so many things to help others. My family and I have thanked the Lord

most fervently for all of you, who have taken such a kind interest in our welfare. May the Lord bless you all, and reward you a hundredfold for your love to us. I remain, in the love of Christ, your brother,

J. IVANOV.

Dr. James Yuk in Israel



DR. JAMES YUK

We are now at the peak of the summer work, and the number of patients is beginning to increase. This increase is to be explained by the fact that very many people fall ill in the summer. There are numerous "summer diseases" here, largely due to the exhausting heat. We have some chronic cases, who visit the clinic the whole year round, summer and winter. They may often be seen, not only in the doctor's reception-room, or with the nurses, but also in the evangelistic meetings, in summer and winter. Yes, these patients come in the winter too. We always say we can call them our "winter patients."

But now the summer is at hand (do not forget, that Palestinian summer!), and there begin to appear at the Clinic an ever-increasing number of chance "summer" patients, who come to us one, two or three times, and then disappear. They obtain relief for their ills, and then they disappear. So, if we take into account the chronic "winter" patients, who are always with us, and add to them the new, casual "summer" patients, who do not come in the winter, it will readily be seen why in the summer-time the personnel of the clinic is greatly overburdened with work.

This great crowd of "summer" patients is like the transient dwellers in tents, during the season of summer work of the Tent Mission, somewhere in Europe. The throngs of people who visit these evangelistic tents do not go regularly to the meetings of any assemblies or churches. In the tents, as we know, meetings are held every evening. We have the opportunity to preach to these, if you please, "tent" patients only on Saturdays, though they come to the Clinic also on the other days of the week. Of course, we have meetings in the Clinic in the winter too. But the "summer" patients are not there at that time, they have disappeared. Still we hope that the Divine seed, which has been sown in the souls of these "summer" patients, has been carried away with them, and has *not* disappeared.

We would ask all our friends and intercessors to remember especially our summer work, both medical and spiritual, and also the staff of the Clinic, which is in need of extra strength. We ask you also to pray for Brother Ostrovsky, who voluntarily, but zealously and faithfully, works for the Lord, preaching His Word to the Hebrew patients in our Clinic. Besides his labors

in the Clinic, he works among the Arab population in Jaffa, Ramleh and Lydda, and conducts evening evangelistic meetings in Jerusalem. Travelling in his light-weight jeep, he is able to combine the Saturday morning meetings in the Clinic in Tel Aviv with the evening services in Jerusalem on the same day.

A most interesting work has also been begun on our premises, among the Arab-speaking children of Jaffa. At the last meeting of the Sunday-School there were fifty-eight children. This property in Jaffa, which has been in our possession for the past fourteen years, has of late been illegally occupied (that is, part of the premises) by worthless people, who have done much harm to the work. A great deal of effort has been expended, in the attempt to be rid of them. Among others, Dr. Smith has sent a fervent petition to the Minister of Justice in Israel, dealing with this matter. The Lord has helped us, and this property (consisting of a large hall and a number of rooms) is now entirely free of them, and available for the work. We are accordingly making special efforts to reach the Arabs and Armenians, since the building is located in the center of the Arab district of Jaffa. But since there are also a great many Jews now living in Jaffa, Brother Ostrovsky intends, with the help of God, to use the premises for the beginning of a work among the Jews also. Pray, and continue in prayer, concerning this. And may the Lord abundantly bless those who are remembering this work before His throne.

JAMES YUK.

To the above letter, written by Dr. Yuk on June 12th, we must add some further notes regarding interesting happenings of late in the Clinic. As early as May 15th, the doctor was able to report a considerable improvement in the surroundings of the property. He wrote: "Every two weeks now there comes an inspector from the Municipality, who warns the neighbors that if they cause any dirt or disorder, they will be brought to judgment. And in reality the place has become much cleaner. Think how the Lord has answered our prayers. But we must not grow weary in the work of intercession. We are most grateful to you, and to all who have prayed about this matter."

The other item of interest concerns a domestic matter, and we can predict that any woman who reads to the bottom of this page will derive from it such sheer delight as she perhaps has not gained from these columns in many months. Hesitantly, some time ago, Dr. Yuk broached an important question. In all his life, in all his years of professional service, he had never had the use of an electric refrigerator. The summer heat in Israel is, as we know, unbearable. Precious supplies of penicillin, sent by the Fellowship, have had to be stored haphazardly in the ice-boxes of indifferent neighbors. What, he asked, would we think of an electric refrigerator?

We thought. There was money enough in the doctor's fund, thanks to the generosity of our Fellowship friends. There followed the time when the doctor had to make the exciting choice between a large and a small model, and to our great delight, he followed the advice of his friends over there, and chose the large one. The purchase price was paid down here (the doctor had additional charges to pay in Israel), the long period of waiting (six weeks in the heat) was past, and on July 15th Dr. Yuk was able to write us: "On the 11th of this month the electric refrigerator arrived. It is standing in the Clinic now, and in the midst of this sub-tropical heat, it makes us think of the cold of Siberia. I have already made ice-cubes in the plastic trays you sent. The penicillin is reposing there too."

Lovely notes have been received also from our dear nurses, Adele Dossik and Vera Naumenko-Ostrovsky, thanking us for various small gifts. We must share with you one of these letters.

Tel Aviv, July 4, 1954.

Dear Ekaterina Normanovna:—

I thank you heartily for your letter of April 26th, which was a delight to read, written as it was on the Russian typewriter. It was pleasing not only in form, but also in content. Thanks be to God, that He thus unites His children, scattered so widely in the various countries of the world, by means of prayers and letters. We all pray for you every morning before we open the Clinic, and we also pray daily for you in our private devotions at home.

We ask, on our part, that you will continue to uphold us in prayer, especially during these three very hot months. We have an unusually large number of patients now. Pray that their physical ills, to which we minister, may be the means to their eternal salvation, even though in only a few cases.

Once more, we thank you heartily for your care and remembrance of us, and also for the food-certificates which are so very necessary to us. May the Lord bless you abundantly.

Your sisters in Christ,

VERA and ADA.

Our readers will rejoice with us at these happy events in Israel, and if they could send a message direct to Dr. Yuk and the nurses, we think it would be just what we are saying here: "If ever, when the hottest days have passed, these dear workers should open the new refrigerator to take out some penicillin, and should feel an uncomfortable sensation of chill, let them remember the warmth of Christian love with which their Fellowship friends surround them, and their recovery will be instantaneous. May God bless them all."

Fred Stettler in Switzerland

Biel-Mett, June 17, 1954.

Dear Sister Ruth:—

Before me I have your good letter of May 28th,—three pages. I know what that means for you, but I felt very happy that you went so thoroughly into the items in my letters. Thanks too for the various bits of information. One after the other, our old-time friends go to be with Christ—now Mrs. Dowkontt—and slowly we approach the goal and ground they once have owned. Somehow, I think more often of these things than I have done in the past.

And thank you, too, for the check, which reached us safely. After all, it is the grace of God, and the faithfulness of the Lord's people, that make it possible to continue from month to month, and keep the work of the Lord going. It is a miracle, because of God, and because of faith on the part of man. Both are supernatural.

The outstanding experiences of last month? Ten days ago we had three days of young people's conferences in prayer, and on the life and prophecy of Daniel. There were about 140 of us, up in the mountains. Some forty-two German young people had come to join us, travelling about 350 miles. We have held this conference for the last five years, and started out with about fifteen. From year to year the number was constantly doubled.

A young man from the United States, a Mr. Taylor, from Indiana I believe, gave us some unusual messages too. He speaks German and French, besides his mother-tongue. This is unusual. That Sunday it rained all day, but we were so happy that on Monday it cleared up, and the Alps were seen in all their grandeur and majesty. We were glad for the foreign guests, who were

visiting Switzerland for the first time, and who naturally like to see the mountains from afar, even if it is not possible to climb them.

Last Sunday we had the annual rally of the Swiss Gospel Tract Society. This society publishes close to two million Gospel tracts annually. In more than 150 towns and villages they have regular groups of Christian leaders, with more than a thousand voluntary workers.

This week again about forty Russian artists arrived in our largest city, Zürich, to give their performance. We supplied each with a New Testament and some Gospel tracts in his own tongue. This week eighty thousand copies will come from the press, of a new tract entitled "The Power of the Bible and the Power of the Atom Bomb." A certain Dr. Bürki, whom I met six years ago at Wheaton College, in Illinois, wrote it and placed it at our disposal. We already have orders for five thousand copies. There is a constant and blessed flow of Gospel reminders into the mass of the people. God gives the increase, and has promised to bless all that is done for Him.

By the end of the month we have again a call for the Gospel tent work. Though we cannot brag of large numbers, or sensational things going on, yet we have never been in a place where the Lord has not had some who needed exactly the message that was given. They have been helped, and not a few have confessed that they had found the Lord Jesus.

(July 22nd.) Within the last month we have published, or secured, about 130,000 Gospel tracts. Some are still at the printer's. Yet we send only upon written request and to reliable Christian workers. This last month we have gone a step further by faith. For some years we have contemplated the printing of large bill-posters for the billboards in all the public squares and places. A Christian artist has drawn such a poster, and the first seven hundred have been published this last month. Now they will preach silently, from hundreds of billboards, to the public: "Jesus Christ is the Way." It is beautifully done up, and we are ready for all the comments. The city of Zürich has ordered five hundred to begin with. We have constantly to reach the great unevangelized masses that never enter the churches.

In the harbor of Hamburg we have a missionary among the sailors. He visits hundreds of ships. On speaking to a chief engineer, he was not very favorably treated at first, but was finally invited to his cabin. There the man poured out his poisoned heart, telling all that he had against the Gospel and religion in general. After he was through, however, the missionary patiently spoke to the man, who after prayer wept like a babe, and promised to read all the literature left with him.

Today we contacted a man who, in a city, goes through a large hospital for Gospel work with our literature. Seldom a day passes without our receiving similar requests and applications. These are folks that are not spoiled nor hardened with a surplus of preaching, in fact, they often go for months and years without any spiritual attention. We are very happy for these opportunities.

Our youngest daughter Tabea has been well, and has been enjoying a week of Christian camping at Beatenberg. She said there were some who had not taken Christ into their hearts, but she had done so long ago. We are happy over this point.

After a chilly summer, it seems that sunshine and warm weather have finally come. We are in the midst of vacation-time for the industries. Having to travel so much, I am really happy to be able to stay at home. Usually I take over the pulpits of absent pastors.

Best wishes and Christian love from us all,

FRED STETTLER.

They Go Everywhere Preaching the Word

Ludwigsburg, Würtemberg, June 18, 1954.

Dear Prayer-helpers:—

"For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." —Luke 15.24.

It is graciously stated by the Lord Jesus, that the father was looking for the return of the prodigal, and when he saw him from afar, he ran to meet him. I suppose it is unthinkable, using the human illustration, that the father would have sent anyone to look for the prodigal. But that is just what the Heavenly Father does, in His infinite care for our lost humanity. He gave the specific order, "Go ye into all the world," and again, "Compel them to come in." It behooves anyone to obey, who loves the Lord. An African woman expressed her doubt that the white women believed the message, otherwise they would not have been so slow in coming to tell it to them. What could be said about the Europeans, who are so slow in bringing the message to their own church members? It is just that they don't believe it themselves!

We would not let that charge stand against us, therefore we find opportunities to witness everywhere, in the highways and byways. Only sometimes we have to refrain, so as not to neglect the main plan. We desired to see our "lost and found" friend, whom we mentioned a while ago. He was practically dead to us, so we wanted to see him alive. It was a disappointment not to find him at first, so we waited two days, until he finally appeared. We are glad to say that he goes on in grace, but finds some difficulty in readjusting himself to new circumstances. Anyhow, he makes a courageous attempt.

At first it was not clear to us how best to utilize the time, as we did not know how many there would be to visit. Some of the men, though living in the military barracks, are married, and spend their free days with their wives, who live in private dwellings,—if these "cubbyholes" can be dignified with such a title. The rents for them are outrageous, and that cuts down the means of livelihood. Therefore most of the women try to get some work, in order to make ends meet. Most of them are enslaved by smoking and drinking, but everybody does it, even the priests, who have also other things laid to their charge. The people realize that their leaders' religious pretenses are a sham, but it is a convenient cloak to hide their own misdeeds.

In the hunt for our friend, we inquired at his dwelling, whether there were any others of Czech nationality living outside the camp, and were given a few names. One woman was working in the family of a United States Army officer, not far away. When we called there, she did not have much time to spare from her duties, but remarked how enthusiastic her husband had been the evening before, having heard us that afternoon in the barracks. That made her desire also to hear us, and therefore she promised to get some others together for that evening, in another home. She gave us also some other addresses.

It is almost unbelievable what some call a home, and what they have to pay for it. We found a varied reception, but due to our introduction, we were at least received. It was evident that the resentment against "religion" has borne sad fruit, and even with our friendly introduction, some very unpleasant charges have been hurled against us. It shows how embittered the people are. Of course, most of it was regarding material things; that is all they see and feel, while in the spiritual realm they are dead. Sometimes it was, indeed, like talking to a dead person: they seemed not to perceive what was presented to them, of the most simple Gospel truth. But they brought countercharges against religion as they know it, through their experiences with the

so-called spiritual leaders, who are really blind leaders of the blind. And the blinded people would insist that all who talk of religion, as they understand it, belong to the same type. It would scarcely be more difficult to talk to outright heathen; and yet these people call themselves Christians.

Even among those who came together that evening, this unwilling spirit prevailed, and it was heartbreaking to see that, seemingly, all our efforts were in vain. Yet after the others had gone, the hostess opened up a bit, and tried to excuse the atmosphere, as due to the presence of some very antagonistic individuals. She spoke also of the strain under which she suffers, as her husband has not been heard of for a long time. To make easy money, he acts as a go-between, through the Iron Curtain, and when he goes out, it is never certain whether he will return. She then made the strange threat that, if he did not come back, she would go over! (To commit murder, we wondered?) All this was interspersed with constant smoking of cigarettes. In spite of all, we finally gave her some spiritual enlightenment, hoping that it may yet bring forth fruit.

The next day was, in some respects, a repetition of the previous one. We met one who had studied for the priesthood, but left off his course shortly before taking orders. Now he is in the "company," and his wife lives in a garden-shack. He is evidently trying to teach his little girl a better way than her mother does, but is not often at home. Our serious conversation was hindered by the antics of his sister-in-law, who lives with them, and a young man friend of hers. We did not know just how the former seminarian stood, and therefore we pointed in all questions to the Word of God, as the final authority. Finally, having another appointment, we had to leave, and he accompanied us a bit of the way. There he spoke of his regret at not having anyone to instruct him in the deep things of religion. I recommended again that he concentrate on the Gospel according to John, so that next time we met, we would have a basis on which to speak, not merely church differences.

Unfortunately, the commander of that group gave us no hope of another invitation until August or September. Therefore we have to keep up the contacts through our monthly Gospel letter in the Czech language, and also through private letters, as occasion may warrant.

That evening was somewhat like the talk at the well of Samaria, with the one woman, whose husband was so enthusiastic. He was not available, because of service. Her room being so tiny, the landlady allowed us to use her kitchen, and stayed also, though she did not understand. She is the leader of the German Lutheran women, and sometimes has a group of them meeting in that kitchen. Nevertheless, it was a new experience to her to see a soul, in one evening, change from darkness to light. The woman to whom we were speaking made a profession of faith, and this is another reason why we want to go to that part of the country soon again. No letters can take the place of personal contact, but we will write first, to see if the response justifies that long trip, necessitating our absence from other work for several days.

We are thankful for some signs of appreciation of our Gospel messages, mailed out monthly. Thus a fanatical Romanist, whom we know personally, and who used to refuse our endeavors for his salvation, writes that he loves to read the messages, and desires not to be forgotten in further mailings. We begin our two weeks' Bible camp on August 2nd, and are praying that some may really find salvation. Thank you for upholding us in every way; you will have a share in the Lord's accounting day.

Yours by grace,

CHARLES and EDNA LUKESH.

The Round-Up

PORTUGAL.—I can realize, by my own experience, all your tremendous task. Praise the Lord that you are recovered from the illness you tell me about. Some three weeks ago a beloved sister from our local Church, of my own age (fifty-one), passed away after a very brief illness, and I had to conduct her funeral services, at home and at the cemetery. It was a good occasion to speak to a great crowd of friends and acquaintances, of the shortness of this life, and of the need of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us on the Cross. Oh, that souls may turn to Him in true repentance and acceptance of our beloved Saviour!

The present issue of our Gospel-paper, the *Correio Evangelico*, is coming from the press, and my helpers are busy in addressing the wrappers, stuffing, stamping and dispatching them. But the threat concerning the reduction of funds for printing the paper has become a reality, and I have had to reduce its circulation already from the usual 7000 copies to 5000. I don't know whether I will be able to continue with even this quantity. I am sorry, as I have so many times pointed out the need to increase the circulation to some 10,000 copies, at least, and now I must reduce to the half of this needed quantity! May this be a prayer-subject for my Christian friends, and a soul's exercise that may lead someone to collaborate with me, in order to support the circulation of this much-needed paper!

I have finished my task of reading and correcting our Portuguese Protestant version of the Bible of Almeida, to be reprinted in London by the British and Foreign Bible Society. They asked me to serve in this capacity. I had to compare with other versions, and to make some corrections (private information). It took me some time, but what a blessed work!—GUIDO WALDEMAR OLIVEIRA.

SPAIN.—Many thanks for the kindness and interest shown to us here in France by your wonderful gift, sent this week via the American Express. Please accept our thanks and warm-hearted appreciation of your thought for us at this time. We are more than grateful also for your prayers on our behalf, and we are greatly indebted to our representative and co-director, Dr. Borkent, for all his aid in expressing our needs for prayer and help in this difficult work.

I shall be in the United States from August to October of this year, and am hoping to be able to speak on the work here in France among the Spanish refugees, and our work in Spain. I wonder if you would remember this, and maybe you could arrange a few services for me in any place you wish. I think this would be of great advantage, so that our kind friends in America might have an intimate knowledge of what we are doing among these people. I should be delighted to be at your service to speak anywhere, at any time. Requests for speaking dates should be sent to our secretary in the United States, Dr. Dean Banta, The King's College, King's College, Delaware. My correspondence will be forwarded to that address. Thanking you again for all your kindness, and praying for you also, as we all seek to be one in Christ for His Kingdom and the winning of souls for Him.—HENRY ROBINSON.

NETHERLANDS.—We beg to express our sincere gratitude for all the proofs of real Christian fellowship we experienced from various places, in answer to our call for assistance in behalf of our missionary work among the Spanish refugees. Your readiness to help us far exceeded our expectations, and we are glad to be able to inform you that all the damage caused by the flood has been repaired, that our work is in full operation again, and that our building at present is in a better condition than before the calamity. God is blessing us in many respects.

But, as always, when the Holy Spirit is working, the devil, considering the salvation of souls as an encroachment upon his rights, has called to arms his princes of hell, and at present we are up against his hosts of evil spirits, who leave nothing untried to ruin the work of our Lord. Sickness, fatigue, opposition—we are experiencing them all. The Archbishop of Barcelona has issued a proclamation in which he summons all Roman Catholics to withstand with all their forces the spreading of our evangelical faith, proclaiming a "holy war" against us. We on our part shall continue our work, doing everything possible, but we are not equal to these arduous difficulties, and again we have to call on you for assistance. This time we do not ask for your material help, but for your spiritual aid. For we are not wrestling against flesh and blood, but against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against the evil spirits in the heavenly places. We call on you to join in our combat before the Throne of Grace.—R. H. BORKENT.

GERMANY.—In the Portuguese-published periodical, *Lines of Communication*, for June, 1954, we read: "Fred Stettler has been visiting the many Polish refugees in Germany, whom he had not seen since leaving Poland fifteen years ago. In one camp there were no less than 4000. One man who had been in his Bible class hugged him as if he would never let him go Many of these Poles who have established homes in Western Germany have started meetings, and Brother Stettler has supplied song-books and Christian literature. This work is growing. The most important aspect of this trip, however, was that a new branch of Christian literature has been developed, and German workers have already spent some 500 marks for the publication of their own Gospel tracts."

ITALY.—My eighty-second birthday, and my sixty-second year in the service of the Lord, was celebrated at home with my family and the few friends who had kindly remembered the date, and was followed by a three-week vacation-trip, north as far as Seattle, including a side trip to Yosemite National Park. I stopped for one or two days in each of the following cities to visit dear old friends of the work, and made new friends: San Jose, Monterey, Pacific Grove, San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley in California, Portland and Newberg in Oregon, and Tacoma and Seattle in Washington. I was invited to speak in six churches and Bible classes. I met a man in San Jose who was led to Christ by me forty-eight years ago, and another brother converted fifty-six years ago, both in Brooklyn, where I labored for fifty years.

So I did not have much of a rest in my vacation, as I seem to be destined to work all the time. Well, God has given me health and strength in all these years, and continues to do so even in my old age, so I will be used in His service and to His glory. I thank all my friends who welcomed my visit with them, for when I saw them I "thanked God and took courage" (Acts 28.15). —STEFANO L. TESTA.

We congratulate Brother Testa on his many years of labor on behalf of his brethren in Italy as well as in this country. He was a dear friend of the late Rev. Norman J. Smith, and they had many long talks together in Brother Testa's garden,—in true Biblical style, for, if we remember correctly, they used to sit under a fig-tree.

A SYMPHONY.—The Russian word for "concordance" is *symphonia*. A new Russian Bible concordance is available from our friends and former associates in Poland, Mr. and Mrs. John J. Grabowitz, 1814 West Rice Street, Chicago 22, Ill. If you would like to give such a concordance to a Russian-speaking friend in this country or abroad, write to Mr. and Mrs. Grabowitz for details.

AMERICAN-EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP RECEIPTS, June-July, 1954
(The First National Bank in Yonkers is depositary for all gifts. Contributions to the Fellowship are deductible from Federal income tax returns.)

37353--$1.00	37374-$10.00	37395-$309.87	37416-$10.00
37354--15.00	37375--10.00	37396----5.00	37417---5.00
37355---6.00	37376---2.10	37397---15.00	37418---5.00
37356-100.00	37377--10.00	37398---75.00	37419--15.00
37357--10.00	37378--10.00	37399---15.00	37420--75.00
37358---1.00	37379--11.53	37400---10.00	37421---5.00
37359--10.00	37380---5.00	37401---75.00	37422--35.00
37360-100.00	37381---5.00	37402---10.00	37423--15.00
37361---2.00	37382--30.00	37403---10.00	37424---2.00
37362--15.00	37383--50.00	37404---50.00	37425---3.00
37363--75.00	37384---5.00	37405---10.00	37426--15.00
37364---5.00	37385--35.00	37406---15.00	37427--20.00
37365--10.00	37386--12.27	37407---10.00	37428--50.00
37366--50.00	37387--50.00	37408---50.00	37429--10.00
37367--20.00	37388---1.00	37409----1.00	37430---5.00
37368--10.00	37389--30.00	37410----6.00	37431--10.00
37369--20.00	37390--10.00	37411---10.00	37432--50.00
37370--50.00	37391---2.00	37412----2.00	37433--15.00
37371---1.00	37392--10.00	37413---50.00	37434---1.00
37372---5.00	37393--20.00	37414----5.00	37435--75.00
37373--10.00	37394---3.00	37415----1.00	37436---5.00

AUSTRIA.—On July 15th, we received a card from our friends of CARE, Inc., reading as follows: "Over the week-end, the worst flood disaster in hundreds of years hit Central Europe. Thousands have been left homeless as the rising Danube swept homes, crops, bridges, and human hopes into its swirling torrents. CARE's Relief Aid has already been distributed in Germany and Austria to meet the emergency conditions. An urgent appeal has been received from governments for further critically needed supplies from stockpiled packages overseas. CARE stands ready to translate your contribution into immediate aid for the flood victims in Austria and Germany. Please send your donations in any amount to: CARE FLOOD RELIEF, 660 First Avenue, New York 16, N. Y." Or send your gifts for this purpose to the Fellowship, and we will forward them promptly. The need will continue to be acute for a long time.

Our own Emmy Steyrer wrote us on July 23rd from Vienna: "I thank you so much for your concern on my account. I am all right, and the flood is far from where I live. I only saw it last week when I had to cross the big bridge across the Danube to go out to the colonies. One could not see where the river was, it was just one great big lake, in the midst of which some tops of high trees were to be seen above water. The small buildings along the bank were flooded to the top, and the high ones to the first floor. If, on the other side of the river, the dam had broken, or if the water had risen about ten inches more, the settlement there would have been flooded, and nobody would have escaped. But, thanks be to God, it did not happen, and when I went across yesterday the water had receded a good deal, so that both banks of the river were visible again."

In our September-October issue, Miss Steyrer will give a full account of the flood. Watch for it.